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# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

*CHRISTOPHER COX, CHAIRMAN*

*BENNIE G. THOMPSON, RANKING MEMBER*

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## **Field Hearing Held by Homeland Security Committee** Committee Examines Port Security and Inland Waterways Security

**VICKSBURG, MS (Tuesday, March 22, 2005)**—The Committee on Homeland Security today held a field hearing in Vicksburg, Mississippi to examine first-hand the security of U.S. ports and inland waterways. The hearing was the culmination of a two-day visit by Homeland Security Committee Members that concluded with a press conference immediately following the hearing.

Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA), during the press conference, discussed the benefits of the Maritime Transportation and Security Act and its regulations requiring exercises and drills on an annual basis, as well as the costs of implementation, and noted that “a theme of this committee” has been moving towards risk-based allocation of homeland security grants, whether for first responders or for ports.

Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member for the Committee said, “The men and women of the US Coast Guard are doing all they can to protect our ports from terrorist attacks. They deserve to get all the tools, equipment, and support necessary to perform their duties. Adequate funding must be a priority to ensure that our ports and inland waterways are no longer vulnerable to terrorist attacks.”

A full audio recording of today’s press conference can be found at  
<http://homeland.house.gov>.

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